
2. Modifications in PMRF Scheme

Prelims Syllabus: Governance

Mains Syllabus: GS-II Government Policies and Interventions for Development in Various Sectors and Issues Arising out of their Design and Implementation.

Why in News?

- The Ministry of Human Resource Development has announced amendments in the Prime Minister's Research Fellowship Scheme.

Highlights:

- After the amendments, for the students from any recognised institute/ university (other than IISc/ IITs/NITs/IISERs/IIEST/CF IITs), the requirement of GATE Score is reduced to 650 from 750 apart from minimum CGPA of 8 or equivalent.
- There will be two channels of entries, one direct entry and lateral entry.
- In lateral entry, the students, who are pursuing PhD in PMRF granting institutions (completed 12 months or 24 months as per certain requirements) can also apply to become fellow under the scheme as per new guidelines.
- The NITs, which appear in top 25 institutions as per NIRF Ranking can also become PMRF Granting institution.
- The Minister hoped that the modifications would enable more students to avail of the Benefit under the Prime Minister's Research Fellowship Scheme.

Research and Innovation Division:

- To boost research a dedicated Division is being created in the ministry with the name of "Research and Innovation Division".
- This division will be headed by a director who will be coordinating research work of various institutions coming under MHRD.

Prime Minister's Research Fellows Scheme:

- The PMRF Scheme has been designed for improving the quality of research in various higher educational institutions in the country.
- With attractive fellowships, the scheme seeks to attract the best talent into research thereby Realizing the Vision of Development Through Innovation.
- The Scheme was announced in the Budget 2018-19.

- The Institutes which can offer PMRF include all the IITs, all the IISERs, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru and some of the top Central Universities/NITs that offer science and/or technology degrees.
- The metrics of the candidates are judged (but not restricted to) by a strong research proposal, publications record and grades & publication in reputed journals/conferences.

